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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1944

Subject: "THE FOOD FOR WAR IN '44." Information from official of Agricultural
Adjustment Agency of War Food Administration.

Even at this early date, there's no question but what some mighty big jobs are "in the works" for 1944. First, and all-important, is the job of making General Eisenhower's prediction come true, by beating the Nazis in Europe... and then we have the job of the big push against the Japanese in the Pacific... and the job of producing the materials of war here at home. Materials for war includes food. That job is on the American farmer's schedule-- producing the food for war. And every homemaker will agree, I am sure, that it's a mighty important job.

Maybe you heard the story about the young British officer who'd been in the big counterattack that shoved Rommel back out of Egypt. This officer afterwards came to the United States, and someone over here asked him about the American tanks and planes that had helped turn Rommel back. "Oh, they were splendid," the young officer said. "A tremendous help. But d'you know, the biggest push you Americans gave me personally in that fight was a good mess of mashed potatoes."

That story pretty well explains the role of American food in this war-- not only as the staff of life, but as a potent morale-builder for fighters and civilians alike.

And American food isn't the only contribution our farmers are making toward winning the war. They're raising tremendous amounts of crops for oils and fibers too.

Each year now, for seven years-- since 1937-- our farmers have broken all food production records for the nation. And now in 1944, they're getting ready to do it again. Perhaps, you heard, or read, a while back, about the state meetings at which farmers decided on their production goals for 1944. And if you think they

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1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study.

2. The second part of the paper discusses the methodology used.

3. The third part of the paper discusses the results of the study.

4. The fourth part of the paper discusses the conclusions of the study.

5. The fifth part of the paper discusses the implications of the study.

6. The sixth part of the paper discusses the limitations of the study.

7. The seventh part of the paper discusses the future research.

8. The eighth part of the paper discusses the acknowledgments.

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10. The tenth part of the paper discusses the appendix.

11. The eleventh part of the paper discusses the conclusion.

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21. The twenty-first part of the paper discusses the future research.

22. The twenty-second part of the paper discusses the acknowledgments.

23. The twenty-third part of the paper discusses the references.

didn't undertake one of the biggest jobs imaginable when they set up their goals, just listen to what they're planning to provide:

Ten and a half billion pounds of beef... one billion pounds of veal... four and a half billion dozen eggs... one billion chickens... One hundred twenty-one billion pounds of milk-- that's enough milk to give every person in the United States and our armed forces about five glasses of milk every day in 1944!

And that's just the beginning. Here are a few more items: Fresh vegetables -- a million seven hundred thousand acres... Soybeans-- thirteen and a half million acres... Almost five million acres of peanuts. (Both these crops-- peanuts and soybeans-- are valuable for oil as well as food, you know.)

Well, those aren't all the figures by any means, but they probably give you an idea of the job the American farmer's laid out for himself this year. To meet the goals, farmers will have to plant a record-breaking 380 million acres this year-- last year they planted 364 million. The largest increases in crops in 1944 will be in food for direct human consumption: fresh and processed vegetables...dry peas and beans... potatoes-- both white and sweet ... soybeans... and peanuts.

The increases in soybeans and peanuts mean not only more food, but also more oil for the nation. This is especially vital since the Japanese cut off the Far Eastern sources of a billion pounds of vegetable oil we used to import each year. Our oil crops this year are expected to give us at least a fourth of all the fats and oils we'll need for eating and for industrial uses.

One of the important factors in past and future farm production is better methods of farming. The American farmer is constantly working to produce more eggs per hen-- more milk per cow-- more wheat per acre-- and at the same time building up and conserving his resources of soil and equipment. In 1943, due in large part to soil-building practices, crop yields were 24 percent greater than the 1923-32 average.

Of course it's not going to be an easy matter to achieve the production goals

for 1944. The weather can always upset the best-laid plans of farmers. And war has created many a stumbling-block on the road to the farm goals: shortages of labor... and machinery... and fertilizer... and transportation... among other things. But farmers showed in 1943 that they could avoid those stumbling-blocks-- or, when they couldn't avoid them, at least they didn't give up when they ran into obstacles.

Just as an example of how farmers met one wartime problem, listen to these words, spoken by War Food Administrator Marvin Jones in a recent talk to a group of farmers:

"You shared with your army and your navy and with your country's shipyards, airplane factories, and munitions plants-- you shared your country's labor supply with them. There wasn't enough to go around. There never is, in time of war. You shared it so that the President's goals of airplane, gun, and ship production, often referred to as 'fantastic', were achieved, while at the same time our farmers were breaking all records in reaching equally 'fantastic' goals of food production. It couldn't have been so badly shared, or all these various goals would not have been reached."

That's a pretty good example of how farmers are overcoming the obstacles to war production. In 1943-- the year Judge Jones was talking about-- farmers raised 32 percent more food than in the average year of the 1935 to 1939 period just before the war. And this achievement is all the more remarkable when we remember that such things as machinery and labor were relatively abundant in those pre-war days. In 1943, farmers had to get along on less labor and machinery than they usually have. Yet they achieved their goals for war production. And now they're out to do it again, so that your fighting men overseas and your family here at home will have all the good American food they need in the crucial year ahead.

